

BA 45

c. 1780

GREEN SPRING

112 Valley Road

Owings Mills, Md. 21117

private

GREEN SPRING is a large and very important house, one of the earliest in the region, identified in the 1798 Federal District Tax. It retains much visible work from its initial construction and many unchanged details from its major additions in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Green Spring has remained in the same family since the eighteenth century. Several outbuildings once required to support rural life are still standing.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA 45

x-870.970

y-572.930

MAGI # 0300452235

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Green Spring  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

112 Valley Road

CITY, TOWN

Owings Mills (Garrison) VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21055

Third

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Baltimore

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☐ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Thomas D. Washburne

Telephone #: 363-1371

STREET & NUMBER

Green Spring, 112 Valley Road, Owings Mills, Md. 21117

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

County Courts Building

401 Bosley Avenue

Towson

Liber #: 4566

Folio #: 617

STATE

Maryland, 21204

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

**CONDITION**

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

GREEN SPRING is a two storey frame house which was commenced in the eighteenth century and greatly enlarged in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Its principal facade is to the south, five bays in length. The east end of the house extends two additional bays to the north in an 'L' shaped plan and a lower two storey wing, three bays in length, extends further to the north.

An offset in the south wall (first storey only), just east of the principal entrance which is approximately centered in that wall, marks the probable southeast corner of the original structure, measuring approximately 18½ by 32 feet, corresponding to the one storey frame house of 18 by 30 feet recorded in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax. The original structure may have been lengthened slightly to the east or the original dimension might have been in error. The cellar beneath this original section is slightly shorter than the first storey above it and an irregularity in the plane of the floor above the east cellar wall (in the entrance hall) suggests the possibility of such an addition although the early (possibly original) floorboards do not indicate an addition.

The original section consists of a wide stair hall and a single large parlor to the west, two bays in length. At the fireplace centered in the west wall is an eighteenth century mantel having an architrave surround supporting a frieze with fluted end and center blocks; the bed moulding and moulded cornice shelf break out over the end and center blocks. Flanking the chimney breast are arched recesses, full height, without doors, surrounded by a one-plane architrave having an ovolo backband with fluted keystones and impost blocks. There is no chair rail in evidence, although one would be expected for the period. Surrounding the parlor is a wood bed-moulding cornice, also probably original. Several eighteenth century doors with six fully-raised panels are hung at attic storey doorways, out of context; in their original location they were hung on wrought iron HL hinges. The principal entrance doors with transom and sidelights date from the period of the major nineteenth century addition as does the trim at interior doors and windows; the French doors and north windows are later.

The second storey was added to the first as indicated by the slight overjet above the porch roof at the southwest corner. It is

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 7 con't

GREEN SPRING

Page 2

unlikely that the overjet relates to that medieval structural form. All interior details of the second storey date from the second quarter of the nineteenth century including the two room plan, the plain beaded trim and the mantel with its plain pilasters and frieze. Due to the parlor chamber's being smaller than the parlor below, the window above the parlor's east window is false, closed externally with fixed louvred blinds.

A large addition adjoins the original on the east and it extends to the north with a hipped roof. A living room fronts to the south, creating a front of five bays; north of the living room is a dining room and another stair hall, two bays in length, the latter against the west wall of the northerly extension. A modern kitchen and entry is north of the dining room and secondary stair hall, the southerly portion of the smaller wing, linking the main house to an early log kitchen two bays in length measuring approximately 21 by 24 feet.

Brick nogging has been observed by the owners in several parts of the house, a construction technique not unexpected in the eighteenth century nor in the early nineteenth.

A chimney rises between the living room and the dining room with fireplaces in each. The second floor plan is similar to the first with details slightly similar. Most original details remain from the second quarter of the nineteenth century including the large 6/6 windows with paneled shutters below, louvred blinds above and their hardware; the routed corner-block trim; mantels with routed pilasters supporting paneled friezes; doors with tall full-height panels in the first storey, six unmoulded partially raised panels in the second; and the stair with its moderately slim turned newel, round rail and rectangular balusters.

A large stone fireplace, sized for cooking, is at the south wall of the log kitchen and stairways up and down rise against the north wall, separated from the kitchen by a partition of wide, random-width beaded boards. The log kitchen is not identified as such in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax record although the "1 old dwelling house, 20 x 24 feet" is close in dimension. The existing log structure cannot be dated precisely by visible evidence; it is certainly as old as, if not older than, the major construction here dating from the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

East of the kitchen is a two storey stone dairy house, the upper floor accessible by an exterior stair against the south end, sheltered by the projecting gable of the roof.

North of the kitchen is a garage adapted from a log smoke house. Its east wall has been removed in the adaptation as has an apparent interior log partition, the latter an unusual feature, particularly so with respect to the original method of creating a long west wall.

#7 con't

Page 3

## GREEN SPRING

Further north of the house is a two storey log structure traditionally called a slave quarter, measuring approximately  $16\frac{1}{2}$  by  $25\frac{1}{2}$  feet. A massive stone chimney rises externally at the east end; the upper portion of the stack has been rebuilt. A single large room in the first storey and the two smaller rooms in the second have all modern finishes and details.

West of the house is a one storey square school house with a pyramidal roof; it is probably approximately contemporary with the major addition to the house. A four-panel door is in the east side and a single 6/6 window is in each other side, trimmed internally with plain beaded trim.

A cast-iron arched fireback is now used as an exterior step to the porch within the L of the house. It is said to have been taken from the west parlor fireplace. The initials and date

M  
I . W  
1762

probably relate to the name of the fireback's original owner and the date of its manufacture. It may suggest the date of this house's construction but it is not a reliable guide to that conjecture.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-45

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

GREEN SPRING is a large and very important house, one of the earliest in the region, identified in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax. It retains much visible work from its initial construction in the late eighteenth century and many unchanged details from its major additions in the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

Also standing are several of the many outbuildings once required to support rural life.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Greenspring is one of but a handful of houses left in the Valley that was built before the Revolutionary War. It also bears the distinction of being the only eighteenth-century house that has remained in the same family, ownership passing almost exclusively through the female line. Since 1785, each generation has allied itself with prominent Maryland families who have helped influence the course of Valley history.

The historic house is situated on Green Spring Forest, a 1754 resurvey of several contiguous tracts first laid out for Richard Gist in the early 1700's. This property, totalling 1,436 acres, had been purchased by Captain Robert North, a man of considerable prominence in Baltimore County; he ranked in the upper 2 per cent of the economic structure and was one of the commissioners to lay out Jones Town in 1732.<sup>2</sup>

At North's death in 1748/9 his Valley property was divided equally between his two daughters.<sup>3</sup> Thus Ellen North inherited the southern portion, 743 acres, where Green Spring stands today.

In 1785 Ellen (1740/1-1825) married John Moale (1730/1-1798), one of the wealthiest bachelors of the day. He is well remembered for the first sketch of Baltimore Town, which he drew in 1752. Moale was also active in the Maryland General Assembly and held leadership positions on committees that formulated policies during the years surrounding the American Revolution.

The Moales had a handsome residence in Baltimore, but between 1774 and 1780 they built the original section of what later became their summer home--Green Spring--in the Green Spring Valley. A family wedding in October 1780 clearly validates the existence of the house by that time, but it is possible the house was built as early as 1774.<sup>4</sup> The Boston Tea Party (1773) and the burning of the Peggy Stewart (1774) may well have prompted John Moale to construct a small but safe refuge for his family should war come to Baltimore.

The 1798 Federal Tax Record for Baltimore County lists Ellen (North) Moale, by then a widow, as owning 743 acres of Green Spring Forest on which were the following: 1 frame dwelling house, 1 story, 18x30 feet (Green Spring); 1 old dwelling house, 20x24 feet; 1 log dwelling house, 18x30 feet; 1 hen house, 10x12 feet; 1 log stable, 12x20 feet; and 1 stone barn, 34x64 feet. The first four buildings and 2 acres of ground were valued at \$300.<sup>5</sup> The only remaining structure is, of course, Green Spring.

This Valley home was inherited in 1825 by John and Ellen's eighth child, Robert North Moale (1771-1852). He married Frances, daughter of Samuel Owings, Jr., of Ulm, whose name and profession are preserved in the community name of Owings Mills.

It was during Robert's ownership that the Valley's first railroad, the Green Spring Branch of the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad, was built in 1832. He granted the railroad the right of way through his estate and also sold 69 acres to the company for the purpose of building the Green Spring Hotel and railroad depot on the northeast side of Moale's Lane and Green Spring Valley Road.<sup>6</sup>

In 1836, when plans were underway to extend the Green Spring Valley Road to Reisterstown Road, Moale again granted a right of way through his estate.<sup>7</sup> The 1850 census for Baltimore County assigned a value of \$40,000 to the Green Spring estate.<sup>8</sup>

Robert and Frances' only child, Ellen North Moale (1802-1888), married in 1832 George Howard Elder (1802-1866), a grandnephew of John Eager Howard. They resided year-round at Green Spring which was then a prosperous farm. In fact Elder's two sons helped organize the Garrison Forest Farmers Club and were themselves successful farmers.

With six children the Elders found it necessary to enlarge the house, as verified by the architect's findings of a major addition in the mid-nineteenth century. West of the house is a one-room schoolhouse built by Elder around 1847

for the education of his own and neighbor children. Frequently ministers from nearby Stone Chapel Methodist Church served as teachers.

Over the years the house was passed from one generation to the next. By the 1930's it was owned by Elder's grandson, Jervis Spencer, Jr., who modernized the place.<sup>9</sup> Spencer, a banker, is still remembered for his outstanding performance in the Maryland Hunt Cup and for his ten years of service as chairman of the Maryland Racing Commission.

In more contemporary times renovations were again made to Green Spring, this time by Spencer's grandniece, Kitty (Marshall) Washburne and her husband Tom. The Washburnes reside there today.



## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Baltimore County Patent Liber B. C. and G. S., no 4, fol. 249, Hall of Records (HR), Annapolis, Maryland.

<sup>2</sup> Baltimore County Land Records (BCLR), Liber E. I. no. 8, fol. 70, HR; J. Hall Pleasants, "The Gorsuch and Lovelace Families: Anna Gorsuch and the Todd Family of Virginia and Maryland," Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, 25 (1917): 438-42.

<sup>3</sup> Baltimore County Wills, Liber A., fol 411, HR.

<sup>4</sup> Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser, 17 October 1780; Frank B. Mayer, "Aunt Eve Interviewed," Harper's Magazine, 46 (March 1873): 514-515.

<sup>5</sup> Federal Tax Assessment Record for Back River Upper Hundred, Baltimore County, 1798, fol. 1193, 1063, Maryland Historical Society (MHS), Baltimore, Maryland.

<sup>6</sup> BCLR, Live A. J. no. 224, fol. 308, 309, Baltimore City Court House, Baltimore, Maryland; Fifth Annual Report of the Directors to the Stockholders of the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad Company (Baltimore: James Lucas and E. K. Deaver, 1832) p. 5.

<sup>7</sup> Interview with Mrs. H. Benthall Marshall, a descendant, 6 March 1973.

<sup>8</sup> U. S. Census for Baltimore County, District One, 1850, fol. 249, MHS.

<sup>9</sup> Interview with Mrs. Marshall, 14 October 1972.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Thomas, Dawn E. and Barnes, Robert W. The Greenspring Valley: Its History and Heritage. 2 Vols. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1978.

Baltimore County Land Records, County Courts Bldg., Towson, Md.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

See Attachment

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

James Thomas Wollon, Jr., A.I.A., Dawn Thomas

2-7-80

ORGANIZATION

Valleys Planning Council

DATE

828-7807

STREET & NUMBER

212 Washington Avenue, Towson

TELEPHONE

Maryland 21204

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC GREEN SPRING

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER 112 Valley Road

3rd Councilman District

CITY, TOWN

Owings Mills

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd Congressional District

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES RESTRICTED☐ YES UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mrs. Katherine M. Washburne

Telephone #: 363-1371

STREET &amp; NUMBER

112 Valley Road

CITY, TOWN

Owings Mills

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21117

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

County Courts Building

Liber #: OTG 4566,

Folio #: 617

STREET &amp; NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Baltimore County Historic Sites Inventory  
Maryland Historical TrustMHT Inventory No.  
BA 45

DATE

On-going since 1964

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

# 76 DESCRIPTION

BA-45

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Green Spring is a two-and-a-half story house that has apparently grown from a one-story core, and some ancient fireplaces survive to support the claims of antiquity. The formal front of this white clap-board house is five bays wide. There are two dormers set in a hip roof. Inside chimneys rise through the roof at the extremities of the main facade. There are multiple flues in the chimneys and brick arches—four of them on one chimney—keep rain out of the fireplaces. The house contains an ell or back building and there is also a one-bay extension set back from and on the north end of the main block. Most of the 6-on-6 double-hung sash windows are fitted with blinds (or shutters).

As described in an unsigned Jeffersonian article written in the 1930's by William Williams:

The home, which is approached by a driveway breaking off from the Valley Road about two hundred yards east of the Garrison Road, is a two-and-a-half story structure of early colonial design and faces south. The main portion is of stone clapboarded over, while the kitchen wing, in the rear, is of heavy log, covered with clapboards.

The interior is divided into about fourteen rooms, all told, with those in the main part running to the spacious square type of the period. The ceilings are medium high, the doors low, the windows long, the floors laid in wide boards, and each contains the customary fireplace with ornamental mantel.

The fireplace in the old drawing room, which is to the left of the entrance hall as one goes in, is of particular interest. Flanked on either side by its high, arched chimney-corners, it must be just about as it was when John and Ellen Moale sat with their guests before it. But it was not always thus. It was not good enough for one of the owners of Green Spring, so he had the mantle taken out and substituted for it a more modern and ornate marble affair, and the old mantle found itself relegated to a log cabin on the estate. But the next owner hunted it up and restored it to its original place ....

Directly back of the kitchen wing is the old smoke-house, which in the early days of the house was connected with the main house, but is now separated. Farther to the rear of the house and to the east stands a two-story slave house, while immediately to the west

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

of the mansion and separated from it by fifty or sixty feet is an interesting little square structure with a high, peaked roof, which might be taken for a springhouse. If one asks about it, however, he learns that once upon a time, it was the schoolhouse for the children of the family, where masters hired by the lord of the manor, taught their young offspring their "three R's."

... except for the introduction of conveniences in the way of heating, lighting, and plumbing, and the addition of a small sun porch in the rear, [the house] is unchanged and unharmed.<sup>1</sup>

In 1970, Claire A. Richardson gathered some data from Mrs. H. Bent-hall Marshall for the Baltimore County Historical Society's building survey and reported that the smokehouse was then being used as a garage, and smoke-blackened timbers could be seen inside. The slave quarter had been renovated and was occupied by a family relative. The buildings mentioned in the Jeffersonian article still stood—along with an ice house.

Note:

<sup>1</sup>William Williams, Jeffersonian, 1948 (undated clipping).

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			(local history)

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Green Spring is a rambling stone and frame house with an ancient core and it stands on land that has belonged to persons with the same family connections since the tract was first surveyed for settlement. The tract Green Spring Forest was surveyed in 1754 for Christopher Car-nan and wife and for Ellen North. (1) The survey covered 1,486 acres and was apparently a resurvey of land previously acquired by Ellen or Ellin North's father, Captain Robert North. Captain North had come to Maryland from Whitton Parrish, Lancashire. His daughter Ellin was born in 1741 and has been called the "first white child born in Baltimore Town" although it is difficult to see how a town established in 1729 could have waited 11 years for its first blessed event.

Captain North called his Valley property Green Spring Forest, and he left it to the 7-year-old Ellin in 1748. In 1758, Ellin married John Moale, and they built Green Spring as their country place some time early in their marriage. One of the clues to the age of the house is a cast-iron fireback that was removed from the fireplace in the drawing room. This iron slab bore the inscription "M I W 1762." Possibly the "I W" stood for "Iron Works, but there was no local iron works with a name beginning with "M." Possibly Captain Moale had the fireback custom-cast, but why he left the "I W" as part of the inscription is a mystery.

Moale was a Whig in politics and found his way early into revolution-ary activity. He was a member of the Committees of Observation and Cor-respondence, served in the Maryland constitutional convention, and in 1776 became a lieutenant colonel of the Baltimore Town Militia, serving through the entire war. In 1781 he delivered the address of welcome to General Washington and was on the committee to welcome Rochambeau. (2)

Ellin North Moale was painted along with her granddaughter by Joshua Johnson, the first black American portraitist. (3)

The 1798 tax list showed Ellen Moal (sic), who had that year become a widow, as owner of parcels in both Back River Upper Hundred and Sol-diers Delight Hundred. The land in Soldier's Delight was listed under the name Green Spring Punch with:

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

One frame Dwelling House one story high  
hip-roof, 31 by 18, by additon of  
log one story 28 by 17

One old frame house one story, 24 by 24

One old log Negroe house, one story 20 by 12.

In the Particular List of Lands—the holdings—beyond the home two acres, the list showed:

barn ... stone 62 by 25

Log house 10 by 10

One hew'd Log House 14 by 9

Log stable 20 by 12.

Ellin Moale lived until 1825, leaving the place to son Robert North Moale, who was married to Francis Owings, daughter of Samuel Owings, founder of Owings Mills and Revolutionary patriot.

Robert Moale lived on the place until his death in 1852. It was he who deeded a station site to the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad in 1833 when that line was attempting to reach Westminster and Pennsylvania. The company's famous English locomotive Herald, far superior to the B & O's Tom Thumb, passed through the Moale property at speeds of 30 miles per hour on its trial runs in the autumn of 1832.

Robert N. Moale left the property to his daughter, Ellen North Moale, who became Mrs. George Howard Elder. Mrs. Elder came into 578 acres of Green Spring Forest. The 1850 map by Sidney shows this as the R. N. Moale house, whereas Taylor's map of 1857 shows "Green Spring Farm/George Elder."

Upon becoming a widow, Mrs. Elder conveyed part of the estate to son Robert North Elder, November 1869. (4) The 1877 atlas continued to show Mrs. E. N. Elder. In 1890, the property passed to Mrs. William (Frances M.) Shipley, the daughter of Mrs. Elder (JWS 180:230). An 1889 plat shows the estate and largest of the barns and stables, and the mansion was shown to be L-Shaped. (5).

Mrs. Shipley left the property to Jarvis Spencer, Jr. in 1916 (6). In 1940, Mr. Spencer left it to this daughter Katherine S. Brown (7); Mrs. Brown deeded to her daughter Frances Brown Marshall (Mrs. H. Benthall Marshall); finally, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall deeded to their daughter Mrs. Thomas (Katherine M.) Washburne, the present owner. Thus, the chain of title has never deviated from persons with family connections since the time of the first settler.

Bromley's 1915 atlas showed the estate as that of William H. Shipley; all of the 34-1/2 acres was by then located south of the Western Maryland Railroad tracks (the route laid out by the Baltimore and Susquehanna).

The 1918 Tax Ledger of District 3 showed Jarvis Spencer, Jr. with 18 acres of tillable land between Chattolane and Garrison Station, Green Spring Valley; the structures were:

Dwelling	36 X 58 16 X 21 & 21 X 36 two and a half sts.	\$4000
Stable	27 X 31 one and half story	301
Dwelling	18 X 26 14 X 32 one and two stories	491
Dwelling	17 X 24 one and half stories	535
3 Small Bldgs		50

There had obviously been considerable growth in the main house since the taking of the 1798 tax list. (8)

Green Spring has been occasionally opened on garden tours and is superbly kept. (9) The house can be seen from Green Spring Valley Road when the trees are not in leaf. A stone house at the SW corner of Green Spring Valley Road and Cradock Lane was, as shown on the 1889 plat, still part of this property.

Dawn Frances Thomas, who wrote the forthcoming Middendorf Foundation Book on Green Spring Valley, reported in August 1977 that she had found no new evidence to document the house, but she was able to prove that a wedding took place there in 1780.

Notes:

- (1) Patents BC & GS No. 4, f. 249, Hall of Records.
- (2) "'Green Spring Farm,' Once Home of Ellen North, First White Child Born Here," Jeffersonian, 1948 (undated clipping).
- (3) J. Hall Pleasants, "Joshua Johnson, The First American Negro Portrait Painter," Maryland Historical Magazine, 37 (June, 1942): 141.
- (4) B.C. Deeds, EHA 65, f. 246.
- (5) Towson Plats, JWS 1, f. 51 (1889).
- (6) B.C. Wills, WJP 18, f. 452.
- (7) B.C. Wills, JPC 35, f. 490.
- (8) District 3 Tax Ledger, 1918, f. 385.
- (9) Sun Magazine, April 27, 1958.



MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"'Green Spring Farm,' Once Home of Ellen North, First White Child Born Here," Jeffersonian, 1948 (reprint of 1930's article by William Williams).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY about 18 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE None

COUNTY None

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE John W. McGrain, Executive Secretary  
Landmarks Preservation Commission

ORGANIZATION Baltimore County

DATE

Office of Planning and Zoning

August 1977

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

401 Bosley Avenue

494-3495

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Towson

Maryland 21204


The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

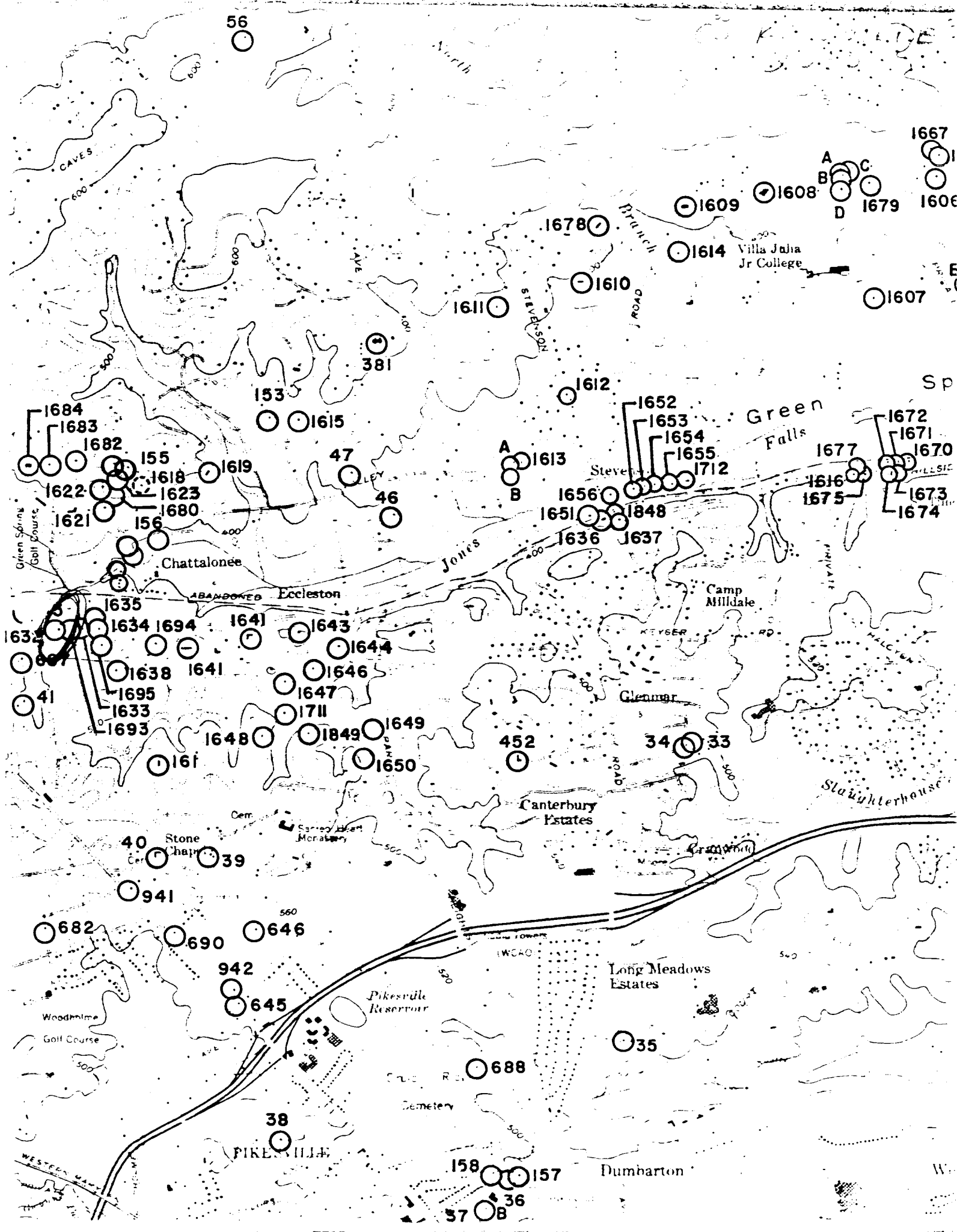
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

0300454124 123

Form 10-445  
(5/62)

1. STATE <b>Maryland</b> COUNTY <b>Baltimore</b> TOWN _____ VICINITY <b>Dist. III</b> STREET NO. <b>Valley Road</b>  ORIGINAL OWNER _____ ORIGINAL USE _____ PRESENT OWNER <i>Mrs. Benjamin Marshall</i> PRESENT USE _____ WALL CONSTRUCTION _____ NO. OF STORIES _____		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <b>BA-45</b>	
		2. NAME <b>Greenspring</b>  DATE OR PERIOD <b>early 1700's</b> STYLE _____ ARCHITECT _____ BUILDER _____	
		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE _____	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <span style="float: right;">OPEN TO PUBLIC</span>  <p style="text-align: center;">(Ellin North Moale's House) Built as a summer place by Captain Robert North for his daughter Ellin. She was said to be the first while child born in the Baltimore area. Clapboard over stone and brick; kitchen built of logs. One of the oldest houses in Baltimore County.</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered                      Interior                      Exterior			
 6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <b>(First HABS Report)</b> <b>E. Frances Offutt</b> <b>HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE</b> <b>COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b>  DATE OF RECORD <b>July 29, 1965</b>	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE





Green Spring

GSVHD

Green Spr. Val.Rd.

JTW

2/29

Md.Hist. Trust

from south

BA-43



# 45 G.S.V.H.D.  
Green Spring - School  
fr. S.E. House  
L, Eaton 2/79  
Md. Hist. Trust

BA-43





BA#45 G.S.V.H.D.

Green Spring out building

J. Wollon

2/79

Md. Hist. Trust

BA-45



# 45 G.S.V.H.D.  
Green Spring Smoke House  
fr. S.E.  
L. Eaton 2/79  
Md. Hist. Trust

BA-45